

An Unshakeable Kingdom

Open Door – 22nd March 2026: Hebrews Series - Finale

This final reflection in our Hebrews journey centres on the promise that, amid all that feels uncertain or unstable, God gives us a kingdom that cannot be shaken. Hebrews speaks honestly into human experience: life trembles, confidence wavers, circumstances change. Yet the letter leads us to a deeper assurance - our hope does not rest on shifting conditions, but on the enduring reign of Christ. Because of who Jesus is - faithful, risen, and ever-present, believers are not striving to secure stability but are receiving a kingdom already made firm by God's grace. The response Hebrews invites is not fear or frantic effort, but gratitude and reverent trust. In a world where so much proves fragile, the church gathers to give thanks for what truly lasts: God's love, Christ's mercy, the gift of hope, and our shared belonging in God's unshakeable purposes. This theme encourages worship that is grounded, hopeful, and quietly joyful - acknowledging life's shakings while proclaiming the steadfastness of God's kingdom revealed in Jesus.

Hebrews 12: 22-24, 28, and 29

But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel. Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us give thanks, by which we offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe; for indeed our God is a consuming fire.

Luke 19: 28-40

After he had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, saying, "Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it.'" So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" They said, "The Lord needs it." Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, saying, "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!" Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, order your disciples to stop." He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out."

What Cannot Be Shaken

Talk transcript (adapted for online use)

Good morning everyone.

Before we do anything with the tables set out around the church... I want us just to pause for a moment.

Because this isn't just another Sunday... this is the end of a journey.

All term, we have been in one book: Hebrews.

And we've called this series: "*Fix Your Eyes on Jesus.*"

And do you remember why?

Because Hebrews wasn't written to strong, confident people. It was written to people who were:

- tired
- worn down
- unsure
- drifting a bit

They weren't rebelling... just slowly losing heart.

And into that, Hebrews speaks. Not with pressure. Not with guilt. But with one repeated invitation: Look again at Jesus.

So today... before we move to the tables... let's remember where we've been.

At the start, we heard this: God has spoken — not just in words, but in a person. Jesus. Then we heard:

- He understands us.
- He shares our humanity.
- He is not ashamed to call us family.

We were reminded: when life gets hard, don't let your heart grow hard - encourage one another.

We spoke about there being a throne... but not a throne of judgement — a throne of mercy and grace, and we are invited to come close. We heard that Jesus doesn't come and go. He doesn't lose interest. He is our priest forever — always caring, always holding us before God. We spoke about the amazing truth that God doesn't just work outside us... he writes his love inside us. A new covenant. A new heart. We were told what to do together: to draw near, to hold fast, and to keep encouraging one another. And we were reminded that we are not alone — we are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses, people who have walked this road before us, cheering us on.

And now... we arrive here. After all of that... Hebrews says: **“We are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken.”**

So we’re going to explore that... using the tables here. What can be shaken... and what cannot.

Table 1 – what looks strong: Let’s start over here.

On this first table, we’re building a tower out of Jenga blocks. You can see it going up — piece by piece — careful, balanced, quite impressive really.

It looks strong, doesn’t it? ... and now... we give the table a shake.

And it collapses. Some things look strong... but they don’t hold.

Table 2 – what helps, but can’t carry everything

Now we move to the second table. This one is built differently — using softer, “squishy” materials. It doesn’t fall apart in the same way. It bends. It wobbles. It adapts. It looks good too right?

But as we try to add weight to it... it still can’t carry everything.

Some things in our lives are good — even helpful — but they were never meant to hold the weight of everything.

Next week is Palm Sunday, and Jesus comes to Jerusalem. Everyone expects strength to look a certain way:

- power
- control
- a king on a warhorse

But instead... Jesus is on a colt. A young donkey. Gentle. Humble. Unimpressive.

And yet... **this is the king of the kingdom that cannot be shaken.**

And this is where Hebrews has been leading us all along, because the strength of God’s kingdom is not like the strength of the world. It is not:

- how tall the tower is

- how impressive it looks
- how well everything is going

It is this: Jesus →

The one who understands.

The one who stays.

The one who welcomes.

The one who intercedes.

The one who writes love into our hearts.

The one who walks with us.

The one who holds us.

That is the kingdom.

And here is the most important thing Hebrews says today: We are receiving it.

Not building it. Not earning it. Not holding it together ourselves. Receiving.

Which means...

When you feel strong; you are receiving it. When you feel weak; you are receiving it. When life makes sense; you are receiving it. When life falls apart; you are still receiving it.

Hebrews even says: everything that can be shaken... will be shaken.

Not to scare us, but to tell the truth because when things shake... we begin to see what really lasts. And then God even sends a consuming fire. Not a fire that destroys you, but a fire that burns away:

- what is false
- what cannot hold
- what traps you

So that what is real... remains.

So let's recap, the tower fell, the blocks fell All signs or strength gone But Jesus remains: The one who came gently, who stayed faithful, who went all the way to the cross, and the one who is alive now.

So after all these weeks... after everything we've heard in Hebrews... this is where we land:

Not: "Try harder." **Not:** "Hold everything together."

But: **Fix your eyes on Jesus;** because when everything else shakes...He does not, and the kingdom He gives you... cannot be shaken. And that means... even now... even if things feel uncertain...

You are held. Amen.